SCCARA-GRAM

Santa Clara County
Amateur Radio Association

Volume 51, Number 5 May 2026

From Santa Maria: The DX Convention

SCCARA members John W6JPP, Ognian KN6BEZ and Ned AC6YY attended Santa Maria DX & Contesting Convention.
Dates: Friday, April 10, 2026 thru Sunday, April 12, 2026
Venue: Historic Santa Maria Inn
Location: Santa Maria, CA (1 hour north of Santa Barbara)
Sponsor: Southern California Contest Club (SCCC)

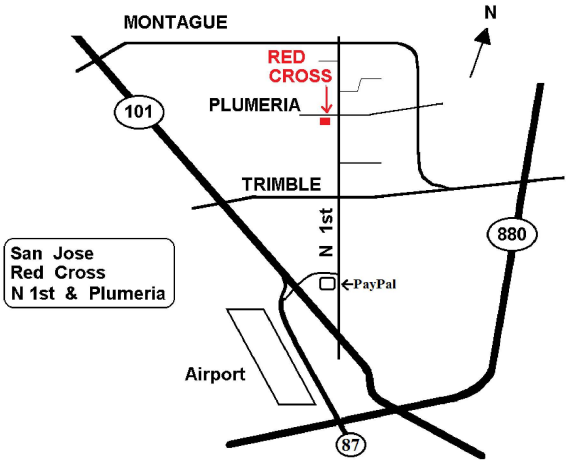
We had very rich convention program with different topics:
- Drone Field Strength Measurements by W6NBC
- HF University by K8TE - Better DX Chasing
- Antenna Models vs Real World by N6BT
- YL Forum by K6GO
- HF University by K8TE - Antennas & Propagation Overview
- Caribbean Holiday by KP4MD
- Headset Design by WI6R
- HF University by K8TE - Know Your Radio
- Antenna Manufacturers Specs by N6BT
- RTTY by W0YK
- HF University by K8TE - Computers/Programs
- FT4/FT8 by W0YK
- IOTA by WC6DX
- HF University by K8TE - Advanced Antennas
- Remote Radio by W1VE and K6ZO
- E51MWA by KN2P
- HF University by K8TE - Potpourri and Q&A
- New Product Showcase by K3LR, WA6HHQ, N6BT, WI6R
- DX History Presentation by N6WS

Calendar

5/11 SCCARA General Meeting
5/18 SCCARA Board Meeting
5/30 Club Station open

General Meeting

Day: Monday, May 11
Time: 7:30 PM
Place: San Jose Red Cross, meeting room 3
Featuring: Project Meeting--attendees can make their own balun for antenna matching.



- DX Forum by N6WS
- ARRL Forum by N6AA and NZ6Q
- 3Y0K Bouvet Island, https://3y0k.com/
  That last one was the most interesting presentation.

73, Ned AC6YY

The ***SCCARA-GRAM*** is published monthly by the **SANTA CLARA COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION**, PO Box 106, San Jose CA 95103-0106.

SCCARA was formed in 1921 and became a non-profit corporation in 1947. SCCARA is an affiliate of the American Radio Relay League (ARRL).

The club station is **W6UW**, located at the San Jose Red Cross.

Permission to reprint articles is hereby granted, provided the source is properly credited.

The deadline for articles is the **last Monday of the month**.

Web page: www.sccara.org

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
(officers are also directors)

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SCCARA REPEATERS

SCCARA owns and operates two repeaters under the call W6UU:
2 m: 146.985 - PL 114.8
70 cm: 442.425 + PL 107.2
Phone auto-dial and auto-patch is available. The 2 m repeater is located at Eagle Rock near Alum Rock Park in the foothills of east San Jose. The 70 cm repeater is located at the Regional Medical Center (formerly Alexian), east of downtown San Jose, north of 280 and 101.

SCCARA NETS

On our 2 m repeater: Mondays at 7:30 PM, (not the second Monday--that's our meeting night); net control: Don Village, K6PBQ. On 10 m, 28.385 MHz USB, Thursdays at 8:00 PM; net control: *{to be announced}*. Visitors welcome.

N0ARY PACKET BBS

SCCARA hosts the packet BBS N0ARY (connect to n0ary-1). User ports: 145.09 MHz at 1200 baud, 433.37 MHz at 9600 baud, and telnet sun.n0ary.org (login "bbs"). Sysop: Gary Mitchell, WB6YRU For general packet info, see the NCPA web site ncpa.n0ary.org.

AMATEUR LICENSE TESTING

ARRL/VEC Silicon Valley VE group: https://www.svve.org
Morris Jones, AD6ZH: 408-507-4698

For the May Meeting

Here's a link for info on making a 9 to 1 unun (unbalanced to unbalanced), for use with an end-fed 6-40 m antenna: https://www.earchi.org/92011endfedfiles/Endfed6_40.pdf That might be a popular one to make at the May meeting.

VK6YSF's web site has lots of projects, including plans for making many different types of baluns, see the **transformers** section near the bottom of the projects page: https://vk6ysf.com/projects.htm

Also see the *Newsletter Notes* column. -- Editor

Treasurer's Treatise

Account Balances as of 4/20/2026

Checking	11,228.05
Savings	0.00
Cash	90.00
Total	11,318.05

Web site report:

There is not any issue with sccara.org website. I posted the latest *SCCARA-GRAM* newsletter for April 2026.

73, Ned AC6YY

ARRL News

From *The ARRL News*, April 28, 2026

New Technician Class Question Pool Released -- Effective July 1, 2026

On December 18, 2025, the National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (NCVEC) Question Pool Committee (QPC) released the revised 2026-2030 Technician Class (Element 2) question pool. It will be required for all Amateur Radio License exam sessions beginning July 1, 2026. The new pool includes 409 questions (27 new, 30 removed, and about 155 modified), compared to 412 in the prior pool. The pool also includes three diagrams used for some of the questions.

This updated question pool incorporates significant changes compared to the prior pool. The questions were checked for technical accuracy and relevance to current amateur radio practices, as well as for grammar, syntax, format, clarity, and for redundancy within and between the pools.

VECs and Volunteer Examiners must use test designs based on the new pool starting on July 1, 2026. Current ARRL VEC Technician Class exam booklets (2022 series) and computer-generated Technician Class exams created from the 2022 question pool are valid until June 30. After that, old versions should be destroyed.

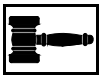
ARRL will have new editions of Technician Class study materials, including The ARRL Ham Radio License Manual, Gordon West

Technician Class License Prep book, and ARRL's Tech Q&A, by May 2026.

View all question pools on the NCVEC website.
https://www.ncvec.org/

Meeting Minutes

General Meeting, April 13, 2026



San Jose Red Cross, meeting room 3

Call to order by president Gregg Lane KF6FNA at 7:38 pm

Attendance: Gregg KF6FNA, Janet KF6PUQ, Lou WA6QYS, Ned AC6YY, Gary WB6YRU, John W6JPP, and George N6NKT. Arriving late: Wally KA6YMD and Barbara KD6QEI (both re-joined at the meeting).

Announcements:
Gregg KF6FNA:
The board meeting will April 20 on our 2 m repeater right after the Monday night net. The club station will be open Saturday April 25 from roughly 10 am to 4 pm.
We will be hosting the electronic flea market, July 11. It runs from 6 am to 12 noon. We'll need volunteers.

Discussion on a coax patch panel for connecting antennas to radios at the club station.
Gary WB6YRU: I'll draw up a diagram on a way to go (without needing 90 degree adapters).

Ned AC6YY: We have a new radio, Icom 7300. It needs to be programmed, I'll do that. It has a built-in sound card and CAT interface for digital modes.
John W6JPP and I went to the DX Convention in Santa Maria (near Pismo Beach). It was like a regular convention with presentations on different subjects.
We now have only one person who can reliably open the radio room. We need to work on that.

Gregg KF6FNA: We have a new tower and rotator (which needs to be checked out) with a 3-element beam. We'll select a date to work on installing it.

John W6JPP: Our antenna trailer is being stored at the American Legion. We're responsible for up-keep of the area around the trailer I'm having some medical issues, so I may not always be easy to contact. (we wish him well)

Ned AC6YY: I'm getting the parts we need for our project meeting, for making baluns. They should be able to handle up to 100 W. We likely will be asking participants to chip in for the costs.
Gary WB6YRU: We need to spell out the details in the SCCARA-GRAM well in advance .

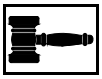
Gregg KF6FNA: Our May general meeting is when we'll have our project meeting.
We need info about HF Winlink at the club station, a "how-to" sheet next to the radio and an article in the newsletter.
Gary WB6YRU: Get the details to me and I'll print it up.

Gary WB6YRU gave a short show-and-tell presentation about a set-up for testing and experimenting with toroid cores. Showed that bifilar windings perform much better than ordinary separate windings. We'll be using toroids at our project meeting next month.

Adjourned at 8:55 pm

Gary Mitchell, WB6YRU, recording for the secretary

Board Meeting, April 20, 2026



Held verbally on our 2 m repeater W6UU/R

Meeting called to order by President Gregg Lane KF6FNA at 7:44 PM

Attendance:
President Gregg Lane KF6FNA, Vice President (vacant), Secretary (vacant), Treasurer Ned Tufekcic AC6YY, Station Trustee Don Village K6PBQ. Directors: Lou Steirer WA6QYS, Wally Britten KA6YMD, John Parks W6JPP, Janet Motha KF6PUQ.
Visitors: Gary WB6YRU, editor

Announcements:
Gregg KF6FNA:
July 11 we'll host the electronic flea market, contact me if you'd like to help.
Radio room will be open Saturday April 25, 10 am to 4 pm
The May 11 general meeting will be a project meeting, we'll be making baluns.

John W6JPP: We need help cleaning up the area around the antenna trailer, contact me or Gregg.

Gregg KF6FNA: We have projects at the Red Cross, one is the building of a coax patch board, can use some help with that once we decide on the design. Give me a call if you'd like to help.

Vice President's Report, (vacant)
Ned AC6YY: For the project meeting, we need to know how many will be participating to know how many parts to order.
Gregg KF6FNA: I'll get back to you Wednesday with the numbers.

Secretary's Report, (vacant):
Gregg KF6FNA: The general and board minutes for March were in the SCCARA-GRAM. Any corrections for the general minutes?
(nothing heard)
John W6JPP: I move to accept general meeting minutes as published.
Ned AC6YY: Second.
Gregg KF6FNA: Any objections?
(nothing heard)
Motion passed.
John W6JPP: I move to accept board minutes as published
Wally KA6YMD: Second
Gregg KF6FNA: Any opposed?
(nothing heard)
Motion carries.

Treasurer's Report, Ned AC6YY: We have $11228 in checking $90 in petty cash
John W6JPP: Move to accept the report, subject to audit.
Don K6PBQ: second
Gregg KF6FNA: any opposed?
(nothing heard)
Gregg KF6FNA: motion passed.

Station Trustee's Report, Don K6PBQ: Nothing new to report

Standing Committees

Editor's report: Gary WB6YRU: The SCCARA-GRAM has had some nice articles recently by Ned AC6YY. I hope that encourages others to write a few now and then. It makes the newsletter so much more interesting and it reflects well on the club.

BBS Sysop's report: Gary WB6YRU: There was some work done on the network at the site, the BBS's internet ports weren't available for a few days. Everything should be OK now. There is a telnet port, sun.n0ary.org. That address has been good for a great may years, and still is. However, there is another one: bbs.n0ary.org. That one makes more sense and is easier to remember.

Repeater Chairman's report, Goetz K6GKB:
Gregg KF6FNA relay: no problems, everything is fine.

Webmaster's report, Ned AC6YY: the latest SCCARA-GRAM is posted, nothing else to report.

Old Business

Gregg KF6FNA: Don K6PBQ requests we get a new Station Trustee
John W6JPP: I'd be happy to fill in if you need a break.
Don K6PBQ: I can stay for a while, but if someone would like to step in, that's fine.
John W6JPP: N6SJL is being brought over from the old America Legion post to the new post, their repeater will be available for SCCARA as well.

Gregg KF6FNA: We are going to upgrade the radio room with a coax patch board. When we get the design finalized, we'll work on that.
Volunteers will help: WB6YRU W6JPP, KF6FNA, WA6QYS
Paul KK6HWN: in QRZ, look at the page of N6MM, he has a nice one on his desk.

Gary WB6YRU: I just posted to the board list a diagram of how the patch panel might be done without the need for 90 degree adapters.

New Business

We have two Kenwood radios that are defective. Do we want to sell them for parts?
Don K6PBQ: I know someone down south who might be interested, I can ask.
John W6JPP: I have a phone number for a Kenwood technician who may be interested.
Gary WB6YRU: Even if we pay to have them repaired, they'll still be old radios. I posted to the board list the most recent update of our property list, the two radios in question are items 68 and 69, highlighted in blue. We have two other Kenwoods, two Yaesu's, and two Icoms. We don't need to hang on to defective radios.
Don K6PBQ: I agree with Gary.
Ned AC6YY: We can keep one Kenwood for those who like using them.
Gary WB6YRU: We already have two other working Kenwoods.

Gregg KF6FNA: Any other new business?
(nothing heard)

Meeting adjourned at 8:18 PM

Gary Mitchell WB6YRU, recording for the Secretary

Notice

Attention Board members:

At the last board meeting, we neglected to discuss paying for parts for the project meeting. We'll vote on that at the May general meeting.

Packet Pieces

Downloaded from the BBS packet network:

==========
Date: 30 Apr 2020 23:23
From: GM3YEW@GB7YEW
To: HUMOUR@WW
Subject: jokes 1/5

Bakers trade bread recipes on a knead-to-know basis.

Husband and wife are shopping when the man picks up a crate of Stella and sticks it into the basket.

'What do you think you're doing?' asks the wife

'They're on sale, only $10 for 12 cans', he says

'Put them back. We can't afford it,' says the wife and they carry on shopping. A few aisles later the woman picks up a $20 jar of face cream and sticks it into the basket.

'What do you think you're doing?' asks the man,

'It's my face cream. It makes me look beautiful,' she says

The man replies... 'SO DOES 12 CANS OF STELLA AND IT'S HALF THE PRICE!!

Log

The first mate was found to be drunk one day and that day it happened to be The captain's turn to write in the ship's log so he wrote: "The first mate was drunk today."

He begged and pleaded to the captain to remove that entry but the captain argued that once an entry was made in the company's log it couldn't be deleted. The first mate decided to get even.

The next time it when it was the first mate's turn to write in the log, he wrote:

"The captain was sober today."

Sermon Follow-Up

A minister told his congregation, "Next week I plan to preach about the sin of lying. To help you understand my sermon, I want you all to read Mark 17."

The following Sunday, as he prepared to deliver his sermon, the minister asked for a show of hands. He wanted to know how many had read Mark 17. Every hand

went up. The minister smiled and said, "Mark has only sixteen chapters. I will now proceed with my sermon on the sin of lying."

As a bagpiper, I was asked by a funeral director to play at a grave-side service for a homeless man who had no family or friends. The funeral was to be held at a cemetery in the remote countryside and this man would be the first to be laid to rest there.

As I was not familiar with the backwoods area, I became lost and being a typical man, did not stop for directions. I finally arrived an hour late. I saw the backhoe and the crew who were eating lunch but the hearse was nowhere in sight.

I apologized to the workers for my tardiness and stepped to the side of the open grave where I saw the vault lid already in place.

I assured the workers I would not hold them up for long but this was the proper thing to do. The workers gathered around, still eating their lunch. I played out my heart and soul.

As I played the workers began to weep. I played and I played like I'd never played before, from Going Home and The Lord is My Shepherd to Flowers of the Forest. I closed with Amazing Grace and walked to my car.

As I was opening the door and taking off my coat, I overheard one of the workers saying to another, Sweet Jeezuz, Mary 'n Joseph, I have never seen nothin' like that before and I've been putting in septic tanks for twenty years.

==========

Date: 1 May 2020 23:33
From: GM3YEW@GB7YEW
To: HUMOUR@WW
Subject: jokes 2/5

A 6th grade teacher posed the following problem to one of her arithmetic classes:

"A wealthy man dies and leaves ten million dollars. One-fifth is to go to his wife, one-fifth is to go to his son, one-sixth to his butler, and the rest to charity. Now, what does each get?"

After a long silence, one little boy raised his hand and with complete sincerity in his voice, answered, "A lawyer!"

Need Help?

Amateurs have a long history of helping each other. An experienced amateur who helps another is traditionally called an "Elmer." If you have a question or problem, you are encouraged to ask one of SCCARA's Elmers. Below is a list of topics and who to contact for each. If your topic isn't listed, ask one of the Elmers under the topic that comes closest and we'll ask around.

If you consider yourself to be reasonably competent in at least one area of amateur radio and would be willing help others, please fill out an Elmer form (available from the club secretary or on our web site).

Topics:
Antennas, feed-lines, tuners: **NV6W, W6JPP, K6PBQ**
CW (Morse code): **NV6W, K6PBQ**
DX (long distance, propagation): **NV6W**
EchoLink: **K6GKB**
Emergency operating, preparedness: **WA6QYS**
HF operating techniques: **NV6W, K6PBQ**
Homebrew projects, construction: **WB6YRU**
Legal, FCC rules: **WB6YRU**
License testing, new amateurs: **W6JPP**
Lightning protection, grounding: **WB6YRU**
Packet Network (BBS, forwarding): **WB6YRU**
SCCARA (club inner workings): **K6PBQ, WB6YRU, WA6QYS**
Station set-up, equipment: **K6PBQ, W6JPP**
TVI, RFI: **WB6YRU**

Contacts for the above topics:
K6GKB, Goetz Brandt, 408-259-7287
e-mail: goetz@ix.netcom.com

NV6W, James D. Armstrong, Jr.,
evening & msg: 408-670-1680

W6JPP, John Parks
e-mail: w6jpp@arrl.net

K6PBQ, Don Village, 408-263-2789

WA6QYS, Lou Steirer, 408-241-7999
e-mail: wa6qys@arrl.net

WB6YRU, Gary Mitchell, 408-269-2924
packet: home BBS N0ARY
e-mail: wb6yru@ix.netcom.com

Newsletter Notes

Remember at the February meeting Ned talked about balun transformers? Well, at the May meeting you'll get a chance to make one!

Nothing was submitted about the May meeting so I don't have all the details, but what do I know is it will be a **project meeting**. Attendees will be able to make a balun transformer for antenna matching. The club will supply the parts and guidance.

Basically we'll be winding toroid transformers. They're all made from a ferrite toroid core with wire windings. They use the same parts, what makes them different is the configuration of the windings. One configuration will produce a **balun** (**bal**anced to **un**balanced) for matching your coax (unbalanced) to a dipole (balanced). Another common type is an **unun** (**un**balanced to **un**balanced) impedance transformer for matching to high-impedance random wire or end-fed antennas.

If this works out, we may have more project meetings. So, let us know what you think.

Until then, check out the "*For the May Meeting*" article with links to web sites. Those will give you an idea of what you might want to make and how.

It should be fun, informative, and useful!

73, Gary WB6YRU, editor

SCCARA
Santa **C**lara **C**ounty **A**mateur **R**adio **A**ssociation
PO Box 106
SAN JOSE CA 95103-0106

FIRST CLASS

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

SCCARA Membership for 2026

If renewing and none of your info has changed, please only fill in your name and call

Name: _____ Call: _____ Class: _____

Address: _____ Licensed since (year): _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip+4: _____

Telephone: _____ ☐ New Member ☐ Renewal ☐ I'm also an ARRL member

E-mail: _____

For delivery of the SCCARA-GRAM (pdf) and club announcements

Membership type and dues: ☐ **Individual, $20** ☐ **Family, $25** ☐ **Student, $10** (under 18)

☞ All memberships start January 1 and expire December 31. ☜
Family memberships (more than one member per household): please include the above info for each member, use separate forms.

New members:
Dues are prorated: dues x (11 - month) x 10% For example: July would be $20 x (11-7) x 0.1 = $8
If joining in November or December: normal dues for next year, the rest of this year is included free.

☐ **I want the paper newsletter delivered by U.S. Mail for an additional $15 per year**
Prorated, $1.25 per month. That's $13.75 if starting in February, $12.50 if starting in March, etc.)

$ _____ **Total** enclosed

Give this completed form and payment to the Secretary or Treasurer at any meeting or mail to the club address.

Rev. 11/1/2024